

Pluralität versus Nation: Transformationsprozesse der osmanischen und post-osmanischen Presse des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts

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Press as a tool of Ottoman patriotism –
The Greek press within the Ottoman modernization
project
Eftymia Kanner
(National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
25.01.2022, 16:00 – 18:00

Abstract:

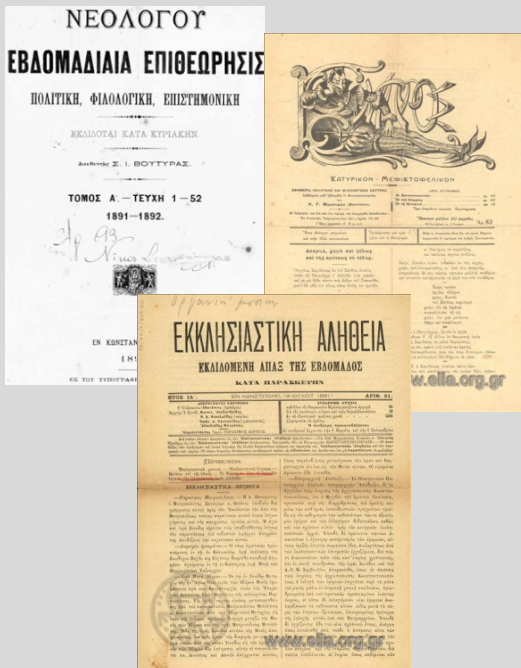
Greek-language press in the Ottoman Empire has been chiefly regarded as a tool, whether of communication among the Greek Orthodox populations within and outside the Empire, or sometimes of Greek nationalist aspirations. In this presentation I will propose a different approach focusing on its role as an element of the Ottoman society: its positions towards the dominant social issues in the late Ottoman period. I will examine the ways in which modernization/westernization and its corollary, the control of Ottoman public space, were presented in various publications. Westernization, the aim *par excellence* of the whole Ottoman society entailed the spread of middle-class values such as education, work discipline, stable family life and social ascension. These values were regarded as social ideals by the elite groups in every ethno-religious community. They were also linked to the Porte's attempts at centralization, its endeavors to strengthen control over its populations and extinct centrifugal forces. For those reasons a rich public debate revolved around them among literate groups of various ethno-religious origins. I will examine the ways in which the Greek-language newspapers and periodicals of the Empire faced those issues and debated them in the wider Ottoman context that included various ethnoreligious milieus, contributing in this way to the creation of an Ottoman public sphere.

Referentin:

Eftymia Kanner is Assistant Professor of Turkish Culture and Society in the Department of Turkish and Modern Asian Studies of the University of Athens. Her research interests relate to various aspects of *embourgeoisement*, mainly among Orthodox and Muslim populations in the late Ottoman period and Early Turkish Republic (national identities, politics towards poverty, emergence of concepts such as childhood, privacy etc.). Her last research concerns the participation of non Muslim minority members in the Turkish social movements in a time span going from the end of the Single Party Period to the rise of the AKP in power (2002).

Neue Publikationen:

“Transcultural Encounters: Discourses on Women's Rights and Feminist Interventions in the Ottoman Empire, Greece, and Turkey from the Mid-Nineteenth Century to the Interwar Period”, *Journal of Women's History*, 28/3 (2016), 66-92. “From “the Sick”, “the Blind” and “the Crippled” to the Nation of “Toiling People”: Visions of the Poor in the Late Ottoman Empire and the Early Turkish Republic”, in E. Davidova (ed.), *Wealth in the Ottoman and Post-Ottoman Balkans. A Socio-Economic History*, London, New York: IB Tauris, 2016, 117-136. *Gender-based Social Demands: From the Ottoman Empire to Greece and Turkey. The World of a Greek-Orthodox Female Teacher* [in Greek], Athens: Papazisis Publishers, 2012.



Fakultät für Philologie
Seminar für Orientalistik und Islamwissenschaft
Ringvorlesung, dienstags 16:00 bis 18:00 Uhr, HGA 30 / Zoom
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